

## ABSTRACT

A starting device is provided for an internal combustion engine, in particular a pull-rope type starting device for a two-stroke or four-stroke motor. The starting device includes a pulley or rope drum which is rotatably held in a housing, and generates the drive torque for a motor shaft by means of a starter handle or pull handle. The starting device is rotatable by way of a load transfer means, in particular by way of a starter rope or pull-rope, and by way of an elastic coupling element, in particular by way of a spiral spring. A ratchet-type engaging element is provided, by means of which the drive torque can be transmitted to the motor shaft, such that not only is overloading of the elastic coupling element prevented in a safe and reliable manner, but also, even if the elastic coupling element should break, the starting still functions, and the internal combustion engine can still be started. The angle of rotation by which the engaging element can be rotated by exerting a load on the elastic coupling element in relation to the pulley or rope drum is limitable to at least one definable maximum angular value.